(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in takeoffs and landing during winter season; and

(c) the number of Air India flights cancelled or diverted out of Delhi during December-January, 2003 and the additional costs incurred by Air India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only those aircraft certified for Category IIIA operations and flown by flight crew qualified for Category IIIA operations can utilize the facility. Category IIIA operations can take place when the measured visibility is 200 meters and above.

(c) 13 flights were diverted out of Indira Gandhi International Air port and 5 were cancelled during December, 2003 and January, 2004. As a result, Air India incurred Rs. 1.90 crores as additional costs.

Revival of Rupsee Aerodrome in Assam

701. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to revive the Rupsee Aerodrome of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rupsee Airport in Assam belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI) and is a non-operational airport. As there is no demand for flight operation to/from Rupsee Airport, it is not viable to operationalise this airport.

Overstaffing in Indian Airlines

702. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to buy new Aircrafts for Indian Airlines and Air India;